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SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR RESTORED DEMOCRACIES

Letter dated 30 January 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 24 January 1997 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on recent events in Bulgaria.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under the agenda item "Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies".

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative of the Netherlands
to the United Nations

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 24 January 1997 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on recent events in Bulgaria

The European Union wishes to express its deep concern about recent events in Bulgaria, a country with which the European Union is closely linked through the Europe Agreement. Rapid and effective structural reforms are urgently necessary in order to secure the recovery of the economy.

The European Union calls upon all political forces to work together in order to overcome the present deadlock and to restore the confidence of the Bulgarian people in the democratic institutions. In this connection, the European Union calls upon all concerned to contribute to the promotion of stable and effective government in a manner consistent with the Constitution, in accordance with democratic procedures, and conducive to a climate in which outside assistance and advice can be effective.

The European Union encourages all political parties to support the recently elected President in his endeavour to facilitate compromise solutions including on a date for elections.